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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/775,960	02/10/2004	Guntor Willy Steinbach	10030972-1	1607

7590 07/19/2005

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Intellectual Property Administration
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EXAMINER

KINKEAD, ARNOLD M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2817

DATE MAILED: 07/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/775,960

Applicant(s)

STEINBACH ET AL.

Examiner

Arnold M. Kinead

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19 and 20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,6-11 and 15-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 and 12-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Oath/Declaration

A substitute declaration/oath is required due to typing errors, i.e., letters dropped from applicants' typed name and other places in the declaration/oath.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1,2,6,7,8,9,10,11,15,16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lovelace et al(US 6,133,797).

The reference by Lovelace et al discloses a system for calibrating a multi-band VCO to operate within a particular band(band centering), see figures 1,4 and 5. In figure 5, a counter(70) is shown to generate band select signals for selecting a frequency band of operation dependent on the output of window comparator(see figure 4)logic. The comparator (34)compares a tuning signal input(28) to a tuning window defined by the voltage divider(see col. 5, lines 43-60) to set upper and lower voltage boundaries. This would occur when the VCO is out of lock. This window comparator allows for the increment/decrement of counter. The counter is reset to the mid range and thus is

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prevented from rolling over in this respect; i.e., a saturating counter that is not allowed to go back to " 0" , but rather is reset to mid-point(see col. 5, last paragraph). The method steps being inherent.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1,2,6, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Groe et al(US 6,856,205).

The reference by Groe et al discloses a system for calibrating a multi-band VCO to operate within a particular band(band centering), see figures 5,6,9. In figures 5 and 9 , a calibration circuit(904) is shown to generate band select signals for selecting a frequency band of operation dependent on the output of window comparator(see figure 9, 902)logic. The comparator (902)compares a tuning signal input(vctrl) to a tuning window defined by the voltage divider(see fig.12) to set upper and lower voltage boundaries(Vref1,2). This would occur when the VCO is out of lock. This window comparator allows for the multi-band tuning of the vco shown in figure 5 by way of capacitors(S1a...,S1b...). The method steps being inherent.

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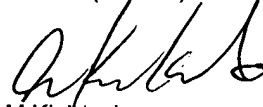
Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3-512-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
5. Claims 19 and 20 are allowed. No controller suggested in prior art of record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arnold M. Kinhead whose telephone number is 571-272-1763. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30 am -5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pascal can be reached on 571-272-1769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Arnold M Kinhead
Primary Examiner